

Message Text

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FOR NSF: SELCUK AND NEA: LEGGIO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TGEN, TS
SUBJ: NSF/SFCP: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PROJECT

REF: TUNIS 4937

1. EMBASSY OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE AND AIDE MEMOIRE JULY 6 OF GOT DESIRE THAT WORK ON NSF-FUNDED REF PROJECT QTE STOP IMMEDIATELY UNQTE. ATTACHED TO AIDE MEMOIRE WAS COPY OF JANUARY21, 1978 LETTER FROM GOT DIRECTIONDES MINES ET DE LA GEOLOGIE TO SOUTH CAROLINA PROJECT DIRECTOR DR.WM KANES INFORMING HIM THAT GOT DID NOT WISH TO RENEW PROJECT AGREEMENT. (TERMINATION DATE WAS ORIGINALLY NOVEMBER 30, 1977 BUT JUNE 1977 AMENDMENT TO PROJECT-OF WHICH GOT WAS INFORMED-PROVIDED ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND EXTENDED TI TO APRIL 30, 1979). FYI: FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTIFICATION WAS FIRST INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY ABOUT EXISTENCE OF THIS LETTER.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM PROF STEVEN SCHAMEL, WHO HERE WITH FOUR GRADUATE STUDENTS WORKING ON TECHTONICS SUBPROJECT, THAT HE HAS INFORMED KANES OF GIST OF GOT COMMUNICATION AND THAT LATTER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT STUDENTS' INTERESTS WOULD BE PROTECTED. SCHAMEL HAS WRITTEN TO NEW DIRECTOR OF MINES AND GEOLOGY KCHOUK SAYING
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THAT HE AND STUDENTS WILL BE LEAVING WHEN ONGOING WORK COMPLETED. UNDERSTANDING VIEW TAKEN BY MOFA LEADS EMBASSY TO BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT SCHAMEL AND THREE STUDENTS (BOAST, DAVIS AND MELLGARD - MARTINDALE FINISHES JULY 13) WILL BE ABLE TO STAY TO MID-AUGUST COMPLETION OF WORK. (POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE FACTOR IS RECENT UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF RICE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR JOHN WARME AND HIS STUDENT ROSS YEO, WHO APPARENTLY WISH TO START UN-

SPECIFIED NEWWORK. WE ARE CONTACTING SOUTH CAROLINA TO QUESTION ADVISABILITY OF ANY NEW WORK).

3. AIDE MEMOIRE LISTS SIX POINTS ON WHICH IT CLAIMS SOUTH CAROLINA INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT MET COMMITMENTS AND CRITICIZES USE OF AZZEDDINE AZZOUZ, PRESIDENT OF WELL-KNOW LOCAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMPANY, AS PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR, CLAIMING THAT THE TUNISIAN AUTHORITIES QTE REGRET THAT THIS COOPERATION (BETWEEN USC AND GOT) HAS TAKEN ON A COMMERCIAL ASPECT....THUS CREATING AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT WITH A PUBLIC RELATIONS COMPANY SETTING ITSELF UP AS A RESEARCH ORGANIZATION UNQTE. ONE KEY FACTOR IS PROJECT'S LOSS OF GOT SUPPORT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RETIREMENT FROM DIRECTION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY OF ORIGINAL TUNISIAN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR AHMED AZZOUZ, BROTHER OF AZZEDDINE AZZOUZ.

4. PROJECT DIRECTOR KANES EXPECTED IN TUNIS ABOUT JULY 24 AND EMBASSY HOPES ON OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO WORK OUT WITH HIM BEST MEANS OF CLOSING DOWN PROJECT AND DISPOSING OF U.S. SURPLUS-CURRENCY PURCHASED EQUIPMENT.

5. POUCHING COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE TO NEA/LEGGIO AND NSF/SELCHUK.
MULCAHY

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